



State Of California

SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor



Lawrence Klein
Utilities
Chairman

Dr. Lucy Jones
Seismology

Andrew Adelman
Cities/Building
Official

Hon. Richard Alarcon
State Senate

Chris Modrzejewski
Senate Representative

Mark Church
Local Government

Dr. Bruce Clark
Geology

Hon. Carol Liu
State Assembly

Donald Manning
Assembly
Representative

Celestine Palmer
Insurance

Daniel Shapiro
Structural
Engineering

Keith Wheeler
Emergency Services

Gary McGavin
Architectural
Planning

Jeff Sedivec
Fire Protection

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director

Seismic Safety Commission Minutes of Teleconference Meeting July 14, 2005

Primary Teleconference Location: Seismic Safety Commission Office
1755 Creekside Oaks Dr., Suite 100
Sacramento, California

Members Participating

Donald R. Parker, Chairman
Lawrence T. Klein, Vice Chair
Andrew Adelman (joined @ 9:13 a.m.)
Mark Church
Don Manning
Linden Nishinaga
Daniel Shapiro (joined @ 9:06 a.m.)
Jimmie R. Yee

Members Absent

Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Bruce Clark
Lucile Jones
Celestine Palmer

Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant
Veronica Ramirez, Student Intern
Henry Reyes, Staff Structural Engineer
Rebecca Romo, Student Intern
Henry Sepulveda, Director of Legislation
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was called to order by Chairman Don Parker at 9:03 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and stated that a quorum was not present. Chairman Parker proposed refraining from taking action until other commissioners had joined the meeting.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Parker noted July 15 was the deadline for commissioner reappointments, and the Commission had not yet heard from the Governor's Office. He said his own seat, as well as those of Commissioners Andrew Adelman, Lucy Jones, Linden Nishinaga, and Jimmie Yee, were subject to reappointment.

At 9:06 a.m., Chairman Parker welcomed Commissioner Dan Shapiro to the meeting and announced the presence of a quorum.

June 28, 2005 Tsunami Informational Senate Hearing

Chairman Parker reported that he appeared before Senator Flores' Committee on June 28 to testify in support of the Office of Emergency Services' (OES') tsunami warning and mitigation programs.

Commissioner Adelman joined the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2005 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Parker drew attention to the minutes of the June meeting and welcomed comments.

Commissioner Nishinaga said he had one change to the committee assignments on Page 2. He recalled that he had been reappointed to chair the Pacific Earthquake Engineering and Research (PEER) Center Oversight Committee, and he recommended correcting the committee roster accordingly.

ACTION: Commissioner Yee made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Don Manning, that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the June 9, 2005 meeting as amended.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Executive Director Richard McCarthy said the staff has been working on budget projections for the next fiscal year, and more information will be available at the September meeting.

Mr. McCarthy advised that the Commission will be discussing a workers' comp matter in closed session that could also involve some expenditure of funds.

Update on FEMA Appeal

Mr. Fred Turner reported that the staff forwarded a payment of \$303 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) production of documents in response to the Commission's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, and a package is expected soon. He added that the Commission has received no response from the Inspector General regarding the request for information.

Update on Spanish Version of the *Homeowner's Guide*

Mr. McCarthy said the California Earthquake Authority approved a \$10,000 contract last week to have the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation produce a Spanish version of the *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety*. He noted Dr. Guna Selvaduray believes a draft will be available within a couple

weeks, so the Commission will have a chance to review the document at its September meeting. He promised to provide copies to all committee members in advance.

Mr. McCarthy advised that the Commission will be sending the final version to the Organization of American States (OAS) for review and comment, and possibly dissemination to OAS' member states.

Quake '06 Update

Mr. McCarthy said he and Mr. Robert Anderson met with people from San Francisco the previous day to talk about the Commission's involvement in Quake '06, and Commissioner Parker will be attending a follow-up meeting the following week.

Website Update

Mr. McCarthy reported that the Commission's Website had 405,000 hits in June, the biggest month ever. He attributed much of the increase to the June 14 earthquake off the coast near Eureka.

September Commission Meeting

Mr. McCarthy suggested that the Commission consider holding its September meeting at a location other than Sacramento. He said the staff investigated the costs of a meeting in Eureka and determined it will cost approximately \$11,000 to send ten commissioners and five staff people to a meeting over a three-day period. He noted another option would be to send the Tsunami Committee to Eureka.

Mr. McCarthy said the staff will bring up this topic at the July 25 meeting of the Tsunami Committee. He noted it might be possible to send a three-person representation from the Tsunami Safety committee and one staff person to visit Eureka and Crescent City and gather information for the Commission. There was general consensus supporting this approach.

V. LEGISLATION UPDATE

Commissioner Church reported that the Legislative Advisory Committee met the previous day. Mr. Henry Sepulveda discussed the status of specific bills and presented the committee's recommendations on several items.

Commission-Sponsored Bills

Mr. Sepulveda said SB 584 (Blakeslee), a clean-up bill to release old funds, is on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that AB 970 (Yee), was revised to remove provisions regarding immunity, so the committee recommends sending a letter to the Department of Education and various school advocacy groups encouraging them to obtain seismic information about their facilities from the Division of the State Architect and advising them about their immunity rights. Mr. Sepulveda drew attention to the draft letter in the meeting packet and asked commissioners to relay comments and suggestions to the staff within the next couple days.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that AB 1374 (Liu), a bill that extends the Commission's funding arrangement through the Department of Insurance, was approved by the Assembly with some difficulty due to opposition letters from the Personal Insurance Federation of California and the Association of California Insurance Companies. Although the bill was approved by the Senate committee, its chair, Senator Speier urged the Commission to amend the provisions to extend the sunset to a date certain instead of deleting the sunset altogether. She proposed a six-year sunset, and the Legislative Advisory Committee recommends amending the bill to insert July 1, 2013 as the sunset date.

Commissioner Church commented that the six-year sunset date seems to be a reasonable compromise and will make the bill likelier to pass. He added that AB 1374 will probably fail without the amendment.

Mr. McCarthy advised that the Commission's has applied for a 3-year block of grants that require assurances that the Commission will be in existence for at least three years.

ACTION: Commissioner Church made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shapiro, that:

The Commission accept the Legislative Advisory Committee's recommendation to insert a six-year sunset date of July 1, 2013 in AB 1374 as proposed.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

AB 1046 (Frommer)

Mr. Sepulveda said AB 1046 is the same as AB 1275, a bill the Commission opposed because of concerns about suspending the 2008 and 2013 hospital retrofit deadlines if voters failed to approve state bond funds. The Commission concluded that extending the time was not worth the risk, and an "oppose unless amended" position was communicated to the author. Mr. Sepulveda explained that the contents of AB 1275 were placed into AB 1046, and the bill is now pending on the Senate side with a hearing scheduled for mid-August. He recommended an "oppose unless amended" position, consistent with that taken on AB 1275.

ACTION: Commissioner Klein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yee, that:

The Commission adopt an "oppose unless amended" position on AB 1046.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

Mr. Sepulveda said he would inform the author's office of the Commission's position.

SB 167 (Speier)

Mr. Sepulveda informed the Commission that SB 167, a bill that would have moved the 2030 hospital retrofit deadline to 2020 in exchange for an extension of earlier deadlines, failed in the Assembly Health Committee and has become a two-year bill. He noted the Commission previously took a "support if amended" position, and the bill was revised to address the points of concern.

U.S. Senate Bill 50

Mr. Sepulveda reported that this measure to increase funding for tsunami mitigation passed from the Senate to the House, where a different version is being considered. He noted the staff will continue

tracking the progress of the legislation and keep commissioners apprised of developments.

Rebecca Romo's Departure

Mr. Sepulveda informed the Commission that Rebecca Romo, student intern, will be leaving at the end of July to enroll in a graduate program at UC Santa Barbara. He thanked her for her assistance and wished her well in her studies.

Mr. Sepulveda introduced Veronica Ramirez, a junior at UC Davis, who will be taking Ms. Romo's place. Commissioners welcomed Ms. Ramirez to the staff.

Chairman Parker asked the staff to prepare a letter thanking Ms. Romo for her service.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tsunami Committee Report

Mr. Henry Reyes said the Tsunami Committee's task is to examine tsunami risks for California and to develop findings and recommendations for the Commission, the Legislature, the Governor, and California's congressional delegate. The kickoff meeting, held May 21, focused on defining the scope of work, committee composition, and report topics. The second meeting, held on June 23 in San Francisco, featured presentations on tsunami hazards, lifelines, Caltrans' signage program, and outdoor warning systems. Mr. Reyes noted the next meeting, scheduled for July 25 in Los Angeles, will look at ports, near-shore detection, siting and design issues, mitigation efforts, and response of local jurisdictions. After that, the committee will review the report outline, and Chairman Parker will assign writing responsibilities to committee members.

Mr. Reyes reported receiving a call the previous day from the State Department indicating that visitors from Indonesia and members of the press are interested in attending the July 25 meeting.

Mr. McCarthy noted that as a follow-up to the Caltrans signage presentation at the last meeting, Caltrans requested a letter of support from the Commission. He recommended that the Commission authorize the staff to draft an appropriate letter to the chair of the U.S. Transportation Commission expressing support for Caltrans' interim signage proposal.

ACTION: Commissioner Klein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Manning, that:

The Commission send a letter to the U.S. Transportation Commission supporting Caltrans' interim signage proposal.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

Chairman Parker offered to work with the staff after the meeting to review the draft letter.

Education & Outreach Activities

Ms. Cogan reported that she attended the annual Red Cross meeting and dinner in San Francisco on June 23 to foster a closer relationship between that organization and the Commission. She noted the next meeting will be in Sacramento.

Ms. Cogan said she and Mr. McCarthy visited Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown's office on July 13 to provide information on the Commission's initiatives regarding schools, hospitals, and protecting the state from tsunami risk.

Ms. Cogan advised that Mr. Turner has been working with a group to revise the "Putting Down Roots" publication. She noted the revised version will include a plug for planning kits available from Operation Hope.

Mr. Turner explained that the current "Putting Down Roots" publication is focused on Southern California, and the U.S. Geological Survey formed this committee to develop a San Francisco version. He reported that the revised document will be release in September and published as an insert in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Mr. Turner offered to provide an advance draft to the Commission in a couple weeks.

Ms. Cogan said she attended a meeting on July 13 to help organize events to celebrate Fleet Week in San Francisco. In particular, she noted, OES is sponsoring a community disaster fair on, October 8 and 9.

Mr. McCarthy noted the Fleet Week celebration is the official kickoff event for the Quake '06 campaign. He said the disaster fair will have one central location for the distribution of printed material and the rest of the displays will be interactive exhibits and short speeches on a wide range of subjects.

Ms. Cogan noted that Mr. McCarthy was interviewed recently on a morning television show in Sacramento. Mr. McCarthy said the interview took place immediately after the tsunami false alarm in June, so it offered a good opportunity to talk about earthquakes and tsunami preparedness. He added that the interviewers knew of the Seismic Safety Commission and were very cordial. He suggested taking advantage of future opportunities like this to highlight Commission activities.

Mr. Sepulveda noted that he emailed commissioners regarding the local cable television channel's upcoming broadcast regarding earthquake issues. He said that Commissioner Klein had volunteered to take part, and he invited other commissioners to join. Mr. Sepulveda suggested scheduling one-hour taping session in Sacramento during the last week in July. He added that commissioners will receive a list of questions in advance.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Commission.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

At 10:22 a.m., the Commission adjourned to a closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(1): Deborah Hansen v. Seismic Safety commission WCAB Case No. SFO 0451743.

The Commission resumed its public meeting at 10:27 a.m.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF THE MEETING

There were no other items brought to the Commission's attention.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director

